



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

APR 23 2013

The Honorable Tom Luna
Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction
Idaho Department of Education
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

Dear Superintendent Luna: ^{Tom}

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Arne Duncan, U.S. Department of Education (ED) on March 20, 2013, pertaining to State adoption of challenging academic content standards. As outlined in the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA), Sec. 1111 (b)(1) (A-F) Academic Standards, Academic Assessments, and Accountability reads:

“Each state plan shall demonstrate that the State has adopted challenging academic content standards . . .”

As stated in these sections, the authority for adoption of academic content standards resides with each State agency and not with ED. Your adoption of the Common Core Standards, in conjunction with the other 47 states, is consistent with that authority.

ED recognizes and acknowledges that the Common Core Standards is a state-led initiative and supports this voluntary effort.

Thank you for your request for clarification. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Deborah S. Delisle
Assistant Secretary

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